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PREPARING THE WAY

If you can envision yourself living during the time of John the Baptist's ministry, do you think you would have responded to his message to, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight"? Would you have stopped, turned from what you were doing and moved toward him to heed his call, or would you have simply noted his presence and continued on your way unaffected? Perhaps a more important question is how will you respond to the call to prepare for Christ's coming during this Advent Season?

Jesus of course has already appeared in the flesh. This is what we celebrate as the First Advent of Christ, commonly called Christmas. And Jesus is going to appear a second time to complete his reign as Lord and ruler of all. This future appearing is commonly referred to as Jesus' Second Coming, or Second Advent. This Second Advent is something we should look forward to with hope and anticipation as all of history submits to his rule and reign. In between these two historical events there are many individual advents of Jesus as he appears in the lives of people and comes to reside there. These personal appearances in our lives as Savior and Lord should be recognized and recalled with equal gratitude and celebration. The Advent Season provides an opportunity when this spirit of hope, expectation, and preparation can be renewed as we recall with gratitude, celebration and hope all three advents of Jesus.

Preparing the way of the Lord can be likened to preparing the soil of a garden to receive new seed. The hardness of the ground must be broken up into loose receptive soil. Weeds must be pulled up and removed, and a place prepared so that the seed can be received and take root and thrive. John the Baptist used the term repentance to speak of this spiritual preparation to welcome Jesus' reign as Savior and Lord. Because of misuse the term "repentance" has received somewhat of a bad rap. Repentance is not mental, emotional, and spiritual flagellation, rather, repentance is turning from the direction we were going and turning toward God's call of love and forgiveness. It is moving toward the one who calls, with your arms and heart opened wide to receive and be received.

Preparing the way of the Lord implies a readiness to change which in the words of Dietrich Von Hildebrand "might even better be termed readiness to become another man.... To do so, he is not required literally to relinquish everything in the sense of the evangelical counsels: this would be in answer to another, more particular call. He is merely required to relinquish his old self, the natural foundation, and all purely natural standards, and open himself entirely to Christ's action — comprehending and answering the call addressed to all Christians: "Put on the new man, who according to God is created in justice and holiness of truth."

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight," and opening yourself "entirely to Christ's action" is still the message of Advent. Will you simply acknowledge the presence of the call and pass on, busily pursuing other things? Or will you stop and turn, opening wide your heart to Jesus, welcoming his appearing in your life?

Emmaus Journey Reflections

Bishop of the Diocese
Most Reverend Gerard P. Bergie, D.D.

Pastor
Father Christopher Gerard Gillen

Sunday Masses
Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Weekday Masses
Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri @ 9:00 a.m.
Wed @ 6:30 pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
To BE RE-SCHEDULED

Reconciliation/Confessions
Sat 4:00 - 4:30 p.m. or on request

Baptism
Catechesis and appointment necessary

Marriage
Contact the parish office

Sacrament of the Sick
Communion for the Sick and Shut-ins
Please call the office.

Secretary
Sandy Johnson
Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

St Martin School
Phone 905-957-3032

Cemetery
Ron Roscovich at 905-386-0648

Diocesan Website: www.saintcd.com

Diocese of St. Catharines

St. Martin of Tours Roman Catholic Church



166 West Street, P.O. Box 74
Smithville, Ontario L0R 2A0
Telephone: 289-956-0221
Email: st.martins@cogeco.ca
www.stmartinsparish.com

Ministry Schedule - Dec 16/17

Hospitality Ministers

5:00 pm - Tony Mous
9:00 am - Marcel Pouliot
11:00 am - Anita Duggan & Joan Hignett

Altar Servers

5:00 pm - Needed
9:00 am - Katie & Laura
11:00 am - Needed

Children's Liturgy

Needed

Next Hospitality Sunday

January 7

Dec 10, 2017

**2nd Sunday
of Advent**

Lectors

5:00 pm #1 - Kelly Staples
#2 - Nick Shields
9:00 am #1 - Tom Richardson
#2 - Marg Van Geest
11:00 am #1 - Jacob Abrams
#2 - Theresa Wilson

Ministers of Communion

5:00 pm - Yolanda & Martha
9:00 am - Mike & Mary
11:00 am - Helen & Andy

Counting

Lisa Poort & Mary Anne Paradis

December 10, 2017

2nd Sunday of Advent - Year B



Lord, may the request of your people rise before you like a fragrant offering

Monday	Dec 11	9:00 am	For the health and healing of and God's blessings upon Tori Whitaker	by Joan and Bob Hignett
Tuesday	Dec 12	6:30 am	Our Lady of Guadalupe For the health and healing of Vanda Larochelle	by Ted & Joan Wisniewski
Wednesday	Dec 13	6:30 pm	St. Lucy For the special intentions of and God's blessings upon Heather Belmont	by Joan & Bob Hignett
Thursday	Dec 14	9:00 am	St. John of the Cross For the living and deceased Mulder family members	by John & Riky Mulder
Friday	Dec 15	9:00 am	For the God's blessings upon Oliviya Rose Koshy and for the special intentions of Rose Koshy	by Rose Koshy
Saturday	Dec 16	5:00 pm	3rd Sunday of Advent For the God's blessings upon Jean McPhail on her 90th birthday	by Heather Tomascin
Sunday	Dec 17	9:00 am 11:00 am	For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish family +For the repose of the soul of Terry Duggan	by Anita & Bernie Duggan

LOAF OF BREAD OUTREACH

The special collection for this outreach program will be next weekend. Please use the attached envelopes in this weeks bulletin to help support those disadvantaged members in our own community who need assistance both financially and socially. Thank you again and may the Good Lord keep you ever blessed as you store up enormous treasures in heaven this way.



PEG NEWS

The Parish Events Group would like to thank everyone for supporting our Poinsettia Fund raiser. Money raised will be used for hosting parish activities (eg Confirmation reception).

Our next activity will be our Parish Pasta Dinner on Saturday February 3rd, 2018. Please note this date and come and enjoy a true home cooked meal.

BAPTISMS

Congratulations and Welcome to:
Kyle Andrew Messier
Baptized Sunday, December 10, 2017.



SEASONAL FLOWER OFFERING FOR LOVED ONES

The parish prays for: Don & Catherine Brown, Edward & Ellen Doyle, Bill Sawchuk, Andy Sawchuk, Eddie Sawchuk, Joachim Urban, Rose Anne Barker



PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

Father Christopher will attend the Annual Faith Formation and Luncheon for Priests, Trustees, Principals, Vice-Principals, Administrators and Chaplains on Wednesday, December 13, 2017 at Club Roma, St. Catharines.

This year's theme will continue our focused efforts to enrich the partnership between our parishes and schools as we continue to build a strong Catholic identity and community throughout Niagara.

CWL CORNER

Ladies, please come out to our lasts get together on 2017 on Wednesday Dec 13th.

We can laugh together, pray together and enjoy some refreshments.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE FALL EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

Development and Peace launches a new campaign called **Women at the Heart of Peace**. This campaign invites all Canadians to learn more about the vital role women play in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Join us in paying tribute to the women who build peace in communities around the world.

Together, let's call on the Canadian government to give women the resources they need to be at the heart of peace. You can also sign our Action Card online: Devp.org/act.

On behalf of all women who build peace in their communities, Development and Peace - Caritas Canada thanks you for your continued commitment. Together, we have the power to change things! Join a dynamic pan-Canadian movement that takes action for peace and justice- become a member of Development and Peace. Without your action, there's no change, no justice! For more information, please go to devp.org/membership.

SCHOOL ADVENT CONFESSIONS

Each Wednesday in Advent
beginning at 9:30am.

EXTRA PARISH ADVENT CONFESSIONS

Regular Confessions are Saturday:
4:00pm to 4:30pm
or by appointment at anytime.

Each Wednesday in Advent 5:45pm to 6:25pm
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
at this time.

Parish Evening Mass is at 6:30pm
Come for Adoration, time for Prayer and Reconciliation and stay for Eucharist.

CHURCH OFFERTORY ENVELOPES 2018

Are now available at entrance foyer.
Thank you for using our offertory envelope system.
Thank you for your weekly tithe/stewardship.
Bills don't take vacations. We do!
Please remember and support us weekly.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Last Sunday's Collection December 3, 2017
\$1,936 - Envelopes (84)
\$344.00 - Loose

Facility Maintenance Collection
\$570.00 - Envelopes (44)
\$54.10 - Loose

*Thank you for your tithe/stewardship.
God Bless.*

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE OF MASSES

December 24:
Regular Sunday Masses 9 & 11 am
Christmas Eve:
Sunday, Dec 24 Family Mass 5:00pm.
Christmas Midnight Mass:
Sunday Dec 24 beginning at 11:30pm
Christmas Day:
Monday, December 25, 10:00am.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

December 31:
Regular Sunday Masses 9 & 11 am
New Year's Vigil Mass:
Sunday December 31, 5pm
New Year's Day Mass:
January 1, Monday 10:00am
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

SUNDAY MISSALS

Sunday Missals are available and in the church foyer. To cover the cost, a donation of \$5 would be appreciated. Thank you.

BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO

Birthdays:
Paul Bartlett/Derek Yaromich - Dec 10
Christian Altobelli - Dec 10
Chad Alderson/Helen Lipiec - Dec 11
Tim Kulakowsky - Dec 11
Emily Mous/Jacob Abrams/Lisa Poort - Dec 12
Nicole MacKsaac - Dec 13
Caroline Burke - Dec 14
Marc DiLeonardo - Dec 15
Tara Russell/Alfons Blokhuis - Dec 16
Juanita Ridland/Alexzia Raposo - Dec 16
Laura Pogoda - Dec 16